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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

24 Dec 69

① RSE
② File: *COMIREX 12-17*
③ File copy - MCHG

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, COMIREX MAPPING, CHARTING,
AND GEODESY WORKING GROUP

SUBJECT: Additional Doppler Beacons for CORONA

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REFERENCE: a. [REDACTED] 16 October 1969

b. Proceedings of COMIREX Meeting, 4 December 1969

In reference a you were informed of the preliminary cost estimates for additional CORONA/doppler beacon launches. The memorandum further advised that current budgetary limitations did not permit the funding of such unprogrammed costs from the NRP. In the referenced COMIREX meeting, it is reported that you made a strong request that additional dopplers be funded by the NRO. This office must re-emphasize that this latter action is not feasible and again state that the additional costs should be funded by DOD.

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Since our memorandum of October, the estimates for additional doppler launches have increased in two major areas. The NRO has recently been informed by the Navy that the unit cost for procurement of the beacons has increased from [REDACTED] to about [REDACTED]. Further, it no longer appears cost effective to reschedule a vehicle to support the desired August launch, this cost estimate having increased from [REDACTED] to nearly [REDACTED]. It now appears to be more practical to modify the vehicle for about [REDACTED]. The revised estimate reflecting the latest requirement for three rather than the previous two additional missions is as follows:

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NRO review(s) completed.

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Integration and antenna procurement for
three additional flight vehicles at [redacted]
vehicle

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Cost of three additional doppler beacons
at [redacted] beacon

Refitting an older flight vehicle to
support an August 1970 launch

Total [redacted]

It should be emphasized that a reasonably prompt resolution
of this matter is required if costs are not to increase still
further. A firm go-ahead must be given the Navy by the end of
March if additional beacons are to be bought as part of current
production to avoid recurrence of start-up costs.

15/
LEW ALLEN, JR.
Brigadier General, USAF
Director

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